## Message Text

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**ACTION EUR-12** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6855

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, EEC

SUBJECT: ITALY ON EEC DISCUSSIONS OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. IN DISCUSSING POLITICAL ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEET-ING OF APRIL 1-2, WELL-INFORMED ITALIAN MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMB-OFF THAT IN GOI'S VIEW FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR COMPOSITION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT JUST WILL NOT FLOAT. AMONG PRIME REASONS ARE LACK OF WHOLE-HEARTED FRG APPROVAL, VERY REAL POLITICAL INABILITY OF HMG TO ACCEPT THAT FORMULA, DANISH AND ITALIAN OPPOSITION, AND FACT THAT "IT WOULD HARDLY BE WORTH WHILE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALL OF EUROPE TO GO TO THE POLLS TO ELECT SO FEW REPRESEN-

TATIVES."

2. CONSEQUENTLY, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BRUSSELS IN FIRST WEEK OF MAY WILL HAVE TOUGH GOING ON THIS ISSUE. WHILE SOME OF THE (UNNAMED) SMALL COUNTRIES MIGHT SUPPORT FRENCH PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM DISPROPORTIONATE STRENGTH IN THE PARLIAMENT, ANOTHER SOLUTION WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND. VOLPE

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TAGS: PFOR, IT, FR, EEC To: STATE

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